

Salem Lamartine 11:00 1/12/69

*Processional Hymn 7
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Matthew 7: 13-29
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Rev. Hiack next Sun. because of Gr.

BOB WEAVER AFTER CHURCH

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 126
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 213
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

St. John Emlenton 9:30 1/12/69

*Processional Hymn 4
*Choral Call To Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Pg. 565 Sel 12
Hymn 20
Scripture Matthew 7: 13-29
Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer & Response
Anthem
Announcements

Rev. Hiack next Sunday because of Gr.

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 191
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 466
Benediction
Threefold Amen
*Postlude

TRINITY CHARGE---THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP January 3, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 426
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture---Matthew 7:13-29
*The Gloria Patri
The Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 423
The Sermon--"Standing At The Crossroads"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 423
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will have Communion next Sunday January 10th. Rev. James Gold will exchange pulpits with your pastor.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ladies of the Church will meet Thursday January 7th at 7:30 P.M. Bring sand paper and wear old clothes to make pictures for the folks at the County Home.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Consistory Meeting Monday January 4th at 8:00 P.M.

Win-A-Chun Class will meet at Mary Louise Dowdrick's on Friday January 8th at 7:30 P.M. Miss Esther Spease will be in charge.

Mr. J. D. Strickland will be at the consistory meeting to discuss the organ. Please note that the time of the meeting has been changed to 7:30 to make it possible for Mr. Strickland to leave Duncannon a little earlier to travel to Lewistown. Any and all of the congregation are invited to attend this meeting to hear the proposals concerning the organ. So if you are interested please come.

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
ICKESBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
PASTOR JAMES H. GOLD, 433-3232
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
January 10, 1971

THE 9:30 SERVICE (LUTHERAN)

The Prelude	
*The Processional Hymn	425
*The Service, Pages 9-14	
The Introit and Collect, Page 51	
The Lesson, Ecclesiastes 12: 1-7	
The Epistle, Romans 12: 1-5	
The Hallelujah, Page 15	
*The Gospel, Luke 2: 41-52	
(Gloria Tibi and Laus Tibi)	
*The Apostles Creed, Page 17	
The Hymn	46
The Sermon	
*The Offertory, Page 17, The Offering	
*The Benediction	
*The Recessional Hymn	264
*Silent Prayer and *The Postlude	

THE 10:45 SERVICE (JCC)

The Prelude (Lighting the Candles)	
*The Hymn	329
*The Solemn Declaration and *Invocation	
The Scripture, Luke 2: 41-52	
*The Gloria Patri	493
The General Prayer and Prayer Response	501
The Anthem - <i>ANNOUNCEMENT</i>	
The Offering, Offertory, *Offering Response	258
The Hymn	322
The Sermon	
*The Lord's Prayer	
*The Hymn	319
*The Benediction, Threefold Amen, Postlude	
*Congregation stands	

The flowers on the Lutheran altar were presented to the Glory of God by the Loyal Daughters.

We welcome Rev. Ralph Link to our service this morning.

Today Pastor Gold is conducting Holy Communion services at New Bloomfield and Duncannon.

Lutheran choir practice will be held this afternoon at 1:30 PM. Plans are being made to organize a youth choir, so cooperation of youth and parents will be appreciated.

JCC choir practice Wednesday evening.

Willing Workers covered dish supper to reveal the Secret Pairs will be January 15th at 7:00 PM. Members bring covered dish other than dessert.

An organizational meeting for confirmation class will be held January 23rd at 10:00 AM in the Lutheran Church.

Reception for the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. & Mrs. Toney Hockenberry will be held January 24th from 2:00 to 4:00 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

WCTU meeting January 26th at 7:30 PM in the Lutheran Church.

Council meeting February 7th.

CONSISTORY MEETING TONITE
7:30

Standing At The Crossroads

Text: Matthew 7: 13,14

"Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to perdition is wide and spacious, and many take it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

"To every man there openeth a way and ways and a way;
And the high soul treads the high way, and the low soul gropes the low;
And in between on the misty flats the rest drift to and fro;
But ~~to~~ every man there openeth a high way and a low;
And every ~~man~~ man decideth the way his soul should go."

These words were penned by John Oxenham the British novelist. As we stand at the very beginning of another year we can count off the months and the weeks that lie ahead and ponder just what they will hold for each of us. This is a very sobering thought when one thinks of all the possibilities that there are. We may ^{WELL} ask, will I be healthy, will I stay steadily employed, will I be able to meet my obligations, and so on? But this is a new year. A chance to undo perhaps some of the things we have done. A chance to get right with everything and everyone. To get right with our God.

To every man there openeth a way and ways and a way; This is the point at which we stand in this very young new year. In other words we can look at the year stretching before us, and in our minds eye we can visualize the high way, the low way and the middle way. ~~which way~~ To use a play on words, which way will it be for us?

^{LAZINESS & A J- WHAT ATTITUDE}
The low way is the way of ~~ease and~~ comfort. It is the way of those who feel they are just common people. People who make up the majority of the world, and who notices them or cares about them anyhow? We may as well just take life as it comes because we can't do anything about it anyhow. This in short is the philosophy of this group. But is anyone doomed to a life of mediocrity? Not according to Jesus. He said that God knows and cares about each of His sheep. If one goes astray He still seeks him and tries to bring him back into the fold.

The middle way is the way of doing just enough to get by. A striving, but not too hard. A certain amount of time and energy must be expended but

not too much now. This is the basic philosophy of this group. Don't you know people who are like this? Our young people know some of these people in school. They just do enough to get by, but if they strove a little harder they could conceivably move up a notch higher. Don't you and I as adults know people like this? Of course we do, they are people ~~xxx~~ something like you and I.

Then there is the high way. Not a road mind you but a high way. Above the rest in other words. These are the people who are probably looked upon by those in the lower groups as idealists. As dreamers perhaps. Call them what you will, but these are the people who are not content to just be mediocre. They are striving and trying and their philosophy is that there is still more to be done. The job is not finished. This is what Jesus was saying when He said, "Enter by the narrow gate, since the road that leads to perdition is wide and spacious, and many take it; but it is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Jesus gives us two choices and the poet gives us three. But regardless whether it is two or three it is only one that counts. If we follow the other choice that is left to us or the other two we are losers. We can't win unless we join the ranks of those striving for the high way. But here again we have the choice. We can choose to become complete followers of Jesus, or we can be half hearted followers and more or less say to Him, "Your rules and regulations for life are o.k. but I can only follow you half way." This in effect is what we are saying when we cease to strive for the high way.

Striving for the high way is the difference between the hard and the easy. It is always easier to flow with the tide. To drift through life and never strive to reach higher. But it takes determination and effort to take the hard way out. In today's society we want to do things the easy way. This is good up to a point. But when we reach the point that we want everything done for us or handed to us with no effort on our part, then we have reached the point of no turn. Look at all the civilizations that have been great powers and see just what caused their downfall from greatness. It was the love of luxury and ease in most cases. Look at us today. We want everything done for us. We want our food pre-cooked, pre-wrapped and next we will want it prechewed so all we need do is

swallow. We want to be entertained. When a lot of us were children we could entertain ourselves for hours. Now our children can't entertain themselves for five minutes. They get bored so easily. There is nothing to do they say. But there is some hope. If we can get back into the groove and strive to reach a little higher, we can overcome a lot of this seeking for ease and luxury. There is nothing wrong with a little ease and luxury, but we tend to go too far. It stunts our growth spiritually. Because after all why do I need God when all I need do is push some buttons and I get immediate results. Or I can go to any store and provide myself with all the necessities of life. So why look for providence, when it is around the corner in a store. But those stores and those buttons on our machines can't take care of us when we leave it all behind. But Jesus can and He promised us that we can enter the narrow gate if we so choose. This is reason enough to seek the high way. To strive above and beyond ourselves for the things that are spiritual. We can still be in this world, but we need not be of it. Not completely ^{BECAUSE BEING A CHRISTIAN IS FUN & NOT ALL SERIOUSNESS} anyhow. We can live and enjoy life, but still belong to Jesus.

Then seeking the high way is the difference between the disciplined and the undisciplined way. Nothing was ever achieved without discipline. To become a great pianist requires hours and hours of practice. To be a great football player requires hours and hours of passing and kicking. The comedian Jack Benny as most people know is not the ^{BAD} ~~bum~~ violinist he pretends to be. He has played the violin all his life and he ^{FREQUENTLY} ~~even~~ gives concerts. On an interview program ^{I HEARD} ~~recently~~ he made the remark that he still practices about three or four hours a day. And he is 74 ^{ABOUT} and could very easily sit down and relax. But he strives to be better. A roommate of Roberto Clemente's one of the stars of the National baseball league, tells of the days when they were amateur players back in their native Puerto Rico. He said that in the evening when they had gone to bed, Roberto would hold a ball in his hand and for hours on end he would bounce it against the wall and catch it, and throw it again and catch it. He would do this sometimes almost all night long. To watch him ^{TODAY} catch a ball is a thing of beauty. He catches it with no effort at all. All of this took discipline. A willingness to keep in shape. You and I may marvel at the ~~recent~~ space flights. Yet the men who performed ^{THEM} ~~it~~ think of it as only routine. Part of their duty. Yet this very day the men who are to be the ^{NEXT} ~~first~~ to

to land on the moon in ~~mid July~~ are training for that flight. In other words they are being disciplined for the events that lie ahead of them.

Here again we are lax in our society today. We lack discipline. We dare not administer it in too many of our schools for fear that the parents of some children will take action against the teacher or principal. We do not use discipline in our Churches as was used in the old days because we would lose members. So you see we have no one to blame but ourselves. We expect to raise the present generations without using discipline on them. We refuse to discipline ourselves in our lives or for that matter in our religion. ~~I had a discussion with one of our members in just last night on this very subject.~~ Christianity is not rejected because what it teaches is wrong. It is rejected because what it presents to us is that in many areas we are wrong and therefore it hits us where it hurts so we do not want to accept it. It tells us to live a certain way and we do not want to give up our nice little way of living so we throw it out.

But again we must look at the ~~remaining 12~~ ^{NO DAYS AHEAD} months ~~in~~ this year ~~59~~ and decide if we are going to be different. If we are going to change. Each December 31st we greet a new year. A year that is completely and entirely different from the last. Yet how many of us become or even want to become new or different? If we are so called Christians we should want to change some of our old habits and ways. Some of the things that perhaps have kept us from the narrow gate that Jesus spoke of. It is not too late for each of us to resolve to turn over that new leaf and to greet the rest of this new year with a changed outlook. With a changed thinking and with a striving to be a new person.

"To every man there openeth a way and ways and a way;

And the high soul treads the high way, and the low soul gropes the low;

And in between on the misty flats the rest drift to and fro;

But to every man there openeth a high way and a low;

And every man decideth the way his soul should go."

Which way will we decide to go ~~in 1969?~~

Let us pray.